

UW-SP to house archive of assassination material

11/13/76
Stevens Point
Wisconsin
Journal

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point will have a permanent archive of information previously suppressed by the government.

The information will include thousands of pages of material on the assassinations of Martin Luther King and John F. Kennedy and the executive sessions of the Warren Commission, according to Harold Weisberg, who spoke at the UW-SP symposium on assassinations Thursday night.

There also will be intelligence agency reports obtained through Freedom of Information Act suits and all the information will be available for public inspection, Weisberg said. The UW-SP has agreed to house the archive and it is expected to be located in the Learning Resources Center.

"The Warren Commission did not dare to let the people know what was going on or when," Weisberg said, adding that he has obtained all of the executive session minutes except for two meetings and part of a third.

The commission held sessions without staff members allowed or took testimony without cross examination, he said. It also withheld records provided by the intelligence agencies.

There was no homicide investigation at all, he said, let alone an investigation into the assassination of a president.

Several tactics were used to keep the information secret, according to Weisberg. The length of time it takes to get the records is a form of secrecy, he said, as well as the practice of releasing records in such volume that no one can digest the information.

But more important was the practice of classifying documents as top secret, he said. Top secret classification is for information relating to national security or information which could break diplomatic relations, Weisberg said.

"But nothing I have seen needed top secret classification in a free society. It was to hide official misconduct, embarrassment or because the voters would not like it.

"There is no element of innocence in any element of government," Weisberg said. "The Warren Commission staff and members joined in this (secrecy). The Warren Commission members, staff

lawyers, file clerks, stenographers and God knows how many people in the FBI and CIA joined in these secrets. I'm not saying these were bad people. I think they are good people, true believers, and that is the real danger."

There are no assurances that the special investigating committee recently established by the House of Representatives will be any different, Weisberg said, adding that there are no assurances that there will be adversary proceedings or that the committee will release new information.

The only solution, he said, is for citizens to "raise hell" if they hear of misconduct.